AH... IT'S COLD.
VERY...
COLD.
SNOW.
NO WONDER.
COLD ...
SOME-ONE...
PLEASE WARM ME UP NOW.
IT'S TOO COLD. I'M GOING TO DIE

指先から恋をして
Kiss from a finger tip
AH
IT'S WARM
FEELS GOOD..

SAKUMA.
WHAT I ALWAYS WANTED WAS....
I'M REALLY..
SERIOUS ABOUT YOU..
A WARM...
AND HARD BODY...
BUT IT'S FLUFFY LIKE IT'S GOING TO MELT WHEN YOU TOUCH IT.
UNLIKE A WOMAN.
THIS FEELING OF RELIEF.
SAKUMA

WHAT
WHO
IS THIS GUY..
EH!

Nn
.....
AND WHY AM I NAKED!
BUT
THIS ISN'T A LOVE HOTEL
It's fine
SORRY I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU ARE, BUT I MUST BE GOING...
SOON ..
URGH!!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I GUESS I OVER-DID IT YESTER-DAY...

THAT'S ENOUGH.
PLEASE STOP. :D
BUT...
I'M... SORRY I WASN'T GOOD. IT WAS MY FIRST TIME.
IT FELT... REALLY GOOD.
AH, I'M SORRY. Caught up in it.
IN OTHER WORDS...

I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT SETTLING DOWN YET
HUH?
IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS.
LAST NIGHT I WAS REJECTED BY THE WOMAN I HAD PROPOSED TO AND HAD TRIED TO DROWN MY SORROWS BY DRINKING.
We had been dating for three years
You're really unlucky
THAT'S RIGHT. I REMEMBER THIS PART.
Yuki kooo
What's with him?
UNDER THE COLD, SNOWY SKY, I LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.
THEN THIS GUY PICKED ME UP.
BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. NO MATTER HOW DRUNK I WAS, WITH ANOTHER GUY...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY, BUT YESTERDAY WAS...

AH
YES, SECOND YEAR.
HIGH...
YOU'RE A HIGH-SCHOOLER?
DDD
?
YOUR HANDS ARE COLD.
I thought he was at least in college...
HOW COULD THIS BE...
THEY GET COLD QUICKLY, DON'T THEY?
I HAVE A HIGH BODY TEMPERATURE
SO IT'S PERFECT.

THIS IS JUST LIKE YESTER-DAY...
DON'T TOUCH ME
WHAT?
.....
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED TO GET FAMILIAR WITH ONE NIGHT STANDS PART-NERS
YESTERDAY WAS ONLY A ONE-TIME THING
I'VE TO ACT LIKE I'M USED TO PLAYING ROUND WITH OTHER GUYS.
AN ADULT RELA-TIONSHIP
WE DON'T NEED TO KNOW EACH OTHER
HAVE TO LET HIM FORGET ABOUT IT...

YOU MEAN...
PLAYING AROUND?
I LEFT THE MONEY FOR THE HOTEL ON THE DESK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
BYE.

SONO, I HEARD YOU WERE DUMPED BY YUKI-CHAN
SAKUMA.
I TOTALLY FORGOT ABOUT HER.
YEAH...
CHEER UP, YOU'LL FIND ANOTHER GOOD ONE IN NO TIME.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE SO DOWN?
NR?
Yep.
Ah, I'm going out, too
BUT I WAS SURPRISED THAT YOU THOUGHT OF GETTING MARRIED.

REALLY?
YEAH. I MEAN RATHER THAN THE WIFE TYPE, THE GIRLS YOU DATED WERE..
ALWAYS PASSIONATE ABOUT INTERESTS AND WORK KINDA BOYISH GIRLS.
WHEN YOU BROKE UP, YOU WERE QUICK TO FIND ANOTHER.
YOU WERE ALWAYS ATTACHED.
Let's go drinking next time
Sure
Sono kun
I THOUGHT YOU JUST WANTED TO PLAY AROUND A LITTLE MORE
BUT I WAS ALWAYS THE ONE BEING DUMPED.
TO GET MARRIED...
AND HAVE KIDS.
I'M ALREADY 27. IF I COULD FIND A GOOD GIRL ...
TO HURRY AND CREATE A FAMILY.
.....
ISN'T THAT NORMAL?

YEAH.
IT'S NORMAL.
?
SONO?

YUME-SAN.
HUH ..
DON'T CALL ME THAT.
NO, HOW DID YOU ..
KNOW MY NAME?
YOU DROPPED THIS.
THEN
SONOI-SAN?
BETTER STILL...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?

BLACK-MAIL?
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE TROUBLED TO LOSE THIS ..
THAT'S PART OF IT.
SONO? YOUR FRIEND?
NO WAY.
I WANTED TO...
SEE YOU AGAIN.

FOR 22 YEARS
I AM SHINONOME.
EVEN IF IT'S ONLY PLAYING AROUND
THE SECRET THAT I DESPERATELY PROTECTED
THE FROZEN TRUTH THAT WAS SHUT AWAY IN MY HEART
PLEASE LET ME...
I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SCARED OF THE DAY...
WHEN IT MELTED
TO BE CONTINUED

FROM LONG AGO
I WAS NEVER GOOD WITH THE COLD.
MY HANDS WERE ALWAYS COLD
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I TRIED TO WARM THEM UP
指先から
Kiss from a finger tip
+恋をして
2
I COULD NEVER FIND
THE WARMTH THAT COMES FROM DEEP INSIDE
AH
HAA
HAA.
MM...

HAA.
YEAH...
ARE YOU OK?
I FELT TOO GOOD WHILE WE WERE AT IT.
I MIGHT HAVE OVER-DONE IT...

AH
LITTLE BY LITTLE DOWN THIS GAY ROAD...
AH
AH
CRAP. TODAY FELT GOOD, TOO.
Won't you do it with me?
!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I'M USED TO IT.
.....
SINCE THAT DAY...
I DIDN'T WISH FOR THIS RELATIONSHIP EITHER.
OF COURSE, I'M NOT GAY.
WE ENDED UP CONNECTED.

I didn't meet up with him willingly.
EVEN THOUGH I SLEPT WITH A HIGH-SCHOOLER BECAUSE I GOT DRUNK...
IF I'M FOUND OUT, IT'S THE END FOR ME.
?
EVEN SO..
OUR BODIES ARE COMPATIBLE
WEIRDLY, I DON'T DISLIKE HIM EITHER
SONO-SAN.

UM...
YOUR HANDS ARE COLD AGAIN.
YEAH, IT'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE LONG AGO.
MY BODY TEMPERATURE'S LOW SO PEOPLE OFTEN TELL ME
BECAUSE WHENEVER YOU'RE WITH ME, YOUR HANDS ARE ALWAYS SO COLD
I LIKE IT THOUGH
THAT'S HOW IT IS, RIGHT?
SONO, YOU ALWAYS FEEL COLD TO ME.
WHENEVER THEY BROKE UP WITH ME, IT WOULD COME OUT.
YOU WEREN'T SERIOUS ABOUT THIS RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING, WERE YOU?

SONO-SAN'S COLD HANDS
YOU SHARE THE SAME TEMPERATURE AS ME
ONLY WHEN WE DO THIS...
I LIKE IT.
NO, I...
?
YOU REALLY...
ISN'T THERE ANY OTHER PERSON YOU WANT TO WARM UP?
HE SAID IT SO NATU-RALLY.

NOT PARTICULARLY...
REALLY?
HE SHOULD BE POPULAR
ANY GIRL YOU LIKE...
OR GUYS TOO.. I GUESS.
HIGH-SCHOOLERS NORMALLY HAVE ONE OR TWO.
.....
WHAT WERE YOU LIKE IN HIGH SCHOOL, SONO-SAN?
WHAT A WASTE
I HAD A GIRLFRIEND.
I ALWAYS HAD ONE
Sono-kun
Yuuka
ME?
OF COURSE I ENJOYED THE SPRING-TIME OF MY YOUTH...

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART...
MANY FRIENDS, TOO.
I ENJOYED MYSELF RIGHT?
I DID WELL IN SPORTS.
AND MY GRADES WERE GOOD
WHY DID I THINK OF SAKUMA!?
OH.. BUT...
YOU MUST HAVE HOBBIES.

INSTEAD OF SPENDING MONEY ON HOTEL WHILE MEETING ME...
WHERE YOU SHOULD RATHER BE HAVING FUN...
YOU WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GO ANYWHERE OR BUY ANYTHING.

NO.
EH?
I DON'T HAVE SPECIAL HOBBIES.
THINGS THAT I WANT OR PLACE OR PLACES THAT I WANT TO GO...
NOTHING IN PARTICULAR.

I DON'T INTEND TO KEEP THIS RELATIONSHIP FOR LONG FROM THE START.
I DIDN'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS GUY ANY MORE THAN NECESSARY, NOR DID I HAVE THE DESIRE TO.
SONO-SAN.
THOSE WERE MY INTENTIONS.
I CAN SEE YOU?
EH.
WHEN'S THE NEXT TIME...

I WONDER.
I'M GOING TO BE PRETTY BUSY SOON.
AH...
.....
.....
WHAT NOW?
THEN.
UH...
UM...

!
Damn, Makes it seem like I'm bullying him
DIDN'T HE SAY HE DOESN'T MIND?
Haa
WHY ME?
Uh,
WAH.
AH!
HUH!?
SONO-SAN?

?
I GUESS THERE'S NO HELPING IT. I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOU A LITTLE LONGER.
IT'S BECAUSE HE MADE THAT FACE IN FRONT OF ME
OUR RELATIONSHIP IS BASED ON MONEY, BUT...
IT'S DIFFICULT NOT TO BOTHER ABOUT HIM.
BECAUSE OF THAT WE NEED TO HAVE MORE FUN
.....?
LET'S GO ON A DATE.

WE ALWAYS COME TO THE HOTEL STRAIGHT-AWAY.
IT'S OKAY TO DATE ONCE IN A WHILE
EH!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
NEXT SUNDAY, OKAY.
IT'S MY FIRST DATE.
ALSO, IF WE GO TO LOVE HOTELS ALL THE TIME, MY BODY'S THE ONE IN TROUBLE...

AH...
I...
REALLY...
LOOK FORWARD TO IT.

YEAH...
He got a girl friend already, huh
NOT GOOD. I THINK I GOT A LITTLE EXCITED.
Heh
But you're going on a date.
We should have some grilled meat.
Since I'm with a younger one...
You're bringing a girl, that sounds really unromantic
Yeah, probably.
TO BE CONTINUED

指先から恋をして
Kiss from a finger-tip
3

A SINGLE CHILD
A SINGLE MOTHER
MAMA'S HAND IS COLD.
HAHA ISN'T IT? BUT RIO'S HANDS ARE WARM SO IT'S PERFECT.
YOU'LL WARM ME UP, WON'T YOU?
I'VE NO MEMORY OF FATHER.
YEAH.
I'LL BE HERE TO KEEP YOU WARM, MOM.
HE PASSED AWAY, LEAVING BEHIND THE YOUNG ME AND DEBTS.

I THINK OUR LIFE WAS REALLY POOR.
MOTHER WORKED HARD FROM MORNING TO NIGHT
RIO YOU'RE STILL AWAKE
WE COULD ONLY SPEND SO LITTLE TIME TOGETHER.
BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT ONLY OF ME.
I DIDN'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE.
EVEN SO... I DIDN'T COMPLAIN.
I'M SORRY, RIO.
...

I WANT TO GROW UP FASTER.
SO I CAN PROTECT YOU, MOM.
MOTHER WAS MY EVERYTHING.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE FOR DINNER?
HMMM, CURRY, GRATIN, AND HAMBURGER
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY EAT ALL THAT.
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE MOMMY'S COOKING IS GOOD
AH!
GEEZ, I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED. WHEN WE GET HOME ...

SNOW!!
IF I DON'T GO HOME...
IT'LL BE BAD.
BUT I DON'T KNOW.
IF I DON'T GO HOME...
COLD...
IF IT SNOWS TOMORROW, I'LL MAKE A SNOWMAN!

MONEY. TOO FROM NOW ON YOU CAN USE IT TO BUY THE THINGS YOU WANT.
I'M NO LONGER NEEDED.
RIO. I'VE MET A MAN THAT I FELL IN LOVE WITH I'M THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED
FROM NOW ON YOU DON'T HAVE TO HOLD BACK.
THE THING I WANTED TO PROTECT IS NOW GONE.

I DON'T KNOW.
I WONDER WHERE I SHOULD RETURN TO.

UM..
NN.
ARE YOU OKAY?
NN...
THIS GUY..
IF I JUST TURN AROUND AND LEAVE HIM ALONE RIGHT NOW...
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN TO HIM, I WONDER.
IT'S ...

COLD...

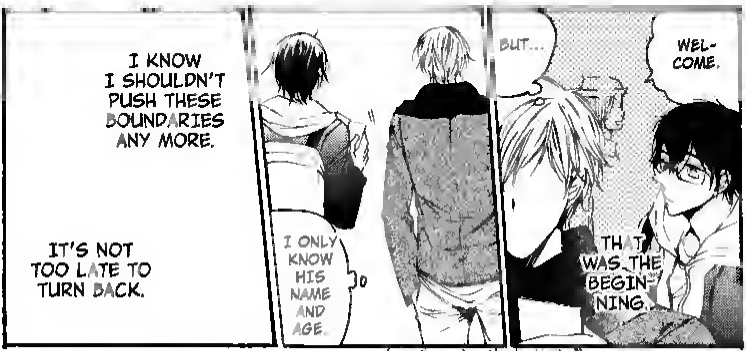
I FOUND IT.
MY...
...
SO STRANGE I WAS SO NERVOUS I WASN'T ABLE TO SLEEP...
NO WAY...

HM?
HEY...
SONO-SAN!
AH ..
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.
WE'LL LOOK LIKE A GAY COUPLE.
OH.
SORRY I WAS JUST SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU DURING THE DAY.
WELL.

I WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED A DATE...
RIGHT, THIS UNBELIEVABLE SITUATION
TWO GUYS AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT. THIS IS A DATE.
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN TO A PLACE LIKE THIS
THIS GUY IS SHINONOME RIO.
I DON'T LIKE TO ADMIT IT, BUT HE'S A HIGH SCHOOLER.
THAT'S UNUSUAL.. YOU DIDN'T COME HERE WITH YOUR PARENTS WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE?
AND ..

I COLLAPSED UNDER A SNOWY NIGHT, DRUNK
WHEN I CAME TO, THERE WAS ANOTHER NAKED GUY IN BED WITH ME.

NO.
WE HAVE A PHYSICAL RELATIONSHIP.


I KNOW I SHOULDN'T PUSH THESE BOUNDARIES ANY MORE.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO TURN BACK.
I ONLY KNOW HIS NAME AND AGE.
BUT...
WELCOME.
THAT WAS THE BEGINNING.

SONO-SAN?
I KNOW THAT, BUT ...

WHAT'S WRONG?
EH
THIS AMUSEMENT PARK...
IT KINDA SUITS YOU
EVEN THOUGH I THINK IT MIGHT BE A LITTLE WEIRD FOR TWO GUYS TO BE AT A PLACE LIKE THIS...
?
?

IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT TO RIDE?
.....
I'D WANT TO TAKE HIM...
TO SUCH A SWEET PLACE LIKE THIS.
SHALL WE PLAY?
WELL, SINCE WE'RE HERE...
BUT WHEN IT COMES TO THIS GUY...
AH...
HOW ABOUT THAT ONE...
WHY DID IT HAVE TO BE THE FERRIS WHEEL...

.....
AH.
THERE'S SO MUCH I WANT TO ASK HIM...
But when it comes down to it...

MY HAND'S NOT COLD AT ALL TODAY.
UM, IT WAS GOOD TODAY WAS WARM
WHAT-EVER
IT WAS NICE.
HERE.
YEAH
SONO-SAN, YOU HAVE A SHORT LIFE LINE.
TOLD YA.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, MY LIFE'S SHORT YET WONDER-FUL.

YOUR HANDS ARE PRETTY LARGE
YOU'RE STILL GROWING FOR A HIGH-SCHOOLER
RIO.

THANK YOU.
SONO-SAN
I'M SORRY, I JUST..

LET'S RIDE THAT ONE NEXT
OK
THAT WAS CLOSE!
IF THE WIND HADN'T ROCKED THE CAR, WE'D HAVE KISSED

ANYWAYS, IT'S TIMES LIKE THIS WHERE THE ONE HAVING THE MOST FUN WINS.
YEP.
I'LL FORGET IT.

WOW, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE HAD FUN LIKE THIS!
HAHA YEAH.
ARE THOSE SOUVENIRS FOR YOUR FAMILY?
HUH?
YES I HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER.
BUT I WASN'T SURE WHAT HE LIKES, SO I WONDER IF HE'D BE HAPPY.
A KID BROTHER?
HOW OLD?
FIVE.
YOU'RE PRETTY FAR APART IN AGE

I WAS AN ONLY CHILD SO I REALLY ENVIOUS THOSE WITH SIBLINGS.
BUT A 5-YEAR-OLD KID CAN BE MY OWN.
HE MUST BE CUTE
.....
AH...
YEAH...
WHAT WAS THAT PAUSE...

SEEMS LIKE HE'S HARBORING SOME KIND OF UNEASINESS ABOUT HIS FAMILY.

WE SHOULD HOLD HANDS.
.....
SONO-SAN'S HANDS ARE COLD.
YOUR HANDS ARE...
SO WARM.
IT REALLY CALMS ME.
IT'S SO...

IS IT OKAY IF I HOLD YOU?
YOUR ORDER'S REVERSED ...
YOU...
BUT THAT'S OKAY.

RIO.
HE HAS A REALLY HIGH BODY TEMPERATURE..
FEELS GOOD..
RATHER..
THAT'S RIGHT AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS AN ADULT
BUT HE'S NOT.

EH?
WHAT...
AH
IT'S WEIRD.
I DON'T FEEL SAD.
AH
BUT, SOME-HOW!..
I CAN'T STOP.

THE CURE FOR CRYING CHILDREN...
IS A KISS.
SONO-SAN...

WAIT...
NN
...

SONO, WHY ARE YOU SPACING OUT...
...
WERE YOU DUMPED AGAIN?
HAH!?

WELL, I THOUGHT YOU HAD GOTTEN YOURSELF ANOTHER GIRLFRIEND.
IT'S NOT A GIRL. IT'S A GUY...
!!
HUH?
I'M NOT SEEING ANYONE.
IT'S NOT...
WHAT YOU THINK.
RIGHT. HE'S LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER THAT I CAN'T LEAVE ALONE.

WHAT'S YOUR RELATION-SHIP WITH HIM?
.....
THE HIGH-SCHOOLER THAT CAME TO THE COMPANY THAT DAY...
SAKUMA?
TO BE CONTINUED

指先から恋をして
Kiss from a fingertip
4
SAKUMA!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHY ARE WE HERE?
EETING ROOM A
IN USE
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
SONO, I WAS THINKING OF ENDING THIS.
EH?

I WAS STUPID.
HOW YOU PRETEND NOT TO HEAR AND SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING...
HOW I ALSO PRETENDED NOT TO NOTICE.
!?
I THOUGHT THAT I WAS DOING IT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.
I LIKE YOU, SONO.

SAKU...
I'M THE TYPE WHO LIKES GUYS.
I LIKE YOU.
IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD.
EVER SINCE WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL
WHAT WILL YOU DO, SONO?
YOU CAN'T PRETEND THAT YOU DIDN'T HEAR ME ANYMORE.

I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO RUN AWAY FROM WHAT I'M TELLING YOU...
LIKE YOU DID ON GRADUATION DAY
AH...
THE SAKURA FLOWERS WERE BLOOMING EARLIER THAN BEFORE
THE PETALS SWEPT BY THE WIND LOOKED LIKE SNOW.
I REMEMBER IT ALL SO VIVIDLY.

I LIKE YOU, SONO.
I WONDER WHY I LET MYSELF FORGET.
HAH?
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I SAID...
I LIKE...
SAKUMA.

I KNOW THAT WITHOUT YOU TELLING ME
SONO...
I...
HAVE DECIDED TO GO OUT WITH KANA
WE CAN STILL TALK WITH EACH OTHER
AS FRIENDS.

LET'S GO OUT.
SONO
YOU RE-JECTED ME BEFORE ...
EH
REALLY?
KANA
LOOKS LIKE I'VE FALLEN FOR YOU.
I LIKE YOU, KANA.
SONO..
I LIKE YOU.
EVERY-ONE'S LOOKING.
THAT'S RIGHT.

YUME!!
IT'S NOT NATURAL!
FOR YOU TO LIKE OTHER BOYS!
SONO?
IT'S WEIRD AND STRANGE TO FEEL LIKE THAT.
I MEAN, LOOK AT HOW FAST MY HEART IS BEATING
GIRLS ARE CUTE
THEY'RE GENTLE AND SMELL GOOD
THEIR VOICES ARE MELTINGLY SWEET.
I'M NORMAL.
I LIKE GIRLS.

SONO...
.....
I ALWAYS...
SAKUMA.
THIS UNEASI-NESS...
I PRETENDED I DIDN'T KNOW AND I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT
SEEM TO...
BE HURTING YOU.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU FORGAVE ME AND I WAS BEING SPOILED BY YOUR KINDNESS.

HOW I FEEL...
ABOUT YOU...
KNOCK KNOCK
EXCUSE ME, THE NEXT GROUP IS HERE DO YOU NEED SOME MORE TIME?
WE'RE DONE.
HEY, SONOI! THE MEETING STARTED.
LET'S GO OUT TONIGHT TO TALK ABOUT IT.
I FORGOT.

THANKS FOR THE WORK.
THANKS FOR THE WORK.
……

?
AND THEN MY BOYFRIEND...
EH, NO WAY, THAT'S A GOOD CATCH.
EXCUSE ME FIRST.
HE SEEMS DIFFERENT LATELY.
HE'S STILL UNFASHIONABLE THOUGH.
YEAH, YEAH!
LIKE HE'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND OR SOMETHING

I HEARD HE'S BEEN SAVING THE MONEY FROM HIS PART TIME JOB FOR THAT, TOO.
REALLY? AMAZING!
AH.
SONO-SAN!
HOW LUCKY! MY PART TIME JOB IS NEARBY HERE.
RIO.
.....

THIS IS MY COWORKER, SAKUMA.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
UM, ARE YOU GOING HOME FROM WORK?
HM.
YEAH
YOU MET HIM ONCE.
I'VE BEEN SONO'S FRIEND SINCE WE WERE IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I JUST CONFESSED TO HIM EARLIER, TOO
EH.

HOW...
WELL DO YOU KNOW SONO?
SAKU...
YOU'RE SHINO-NOME-KUN, RIGHT?
AND A HIGH SCHOOLER
AND SONO...
HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW ABOUT YOU?
WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH SONO?

SAKUMA!!
SONO, YOU LISTEN, TOO
FOR YOU, WHO ARE IGNORANT ABOUT IT...
TO BE WITH A GUY... WHAT'S MORE, A HIGH SCHOOLER
IT'S JUST A RELATION-SHIP...
BASED ON PURE SYMPA-THY AND EACH OTHER'S EX-ISTENCE.
IF IT'S ONLY SUCH AN UNBALANCED RELATION-SHIP...
IT DOESN'T SEEM A LOVE RELATION-SHIP TO ME
THEN YOU SHOULD BREAK UP RIGHT NOW.
TO BE CONTINUED

指先から恋をして
Kiss from a finger tip
5

YOU SHOULD BREAK UP RIGHT NOW.
.....
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT
WE'RE NEITHER FRIENDS NOR LOVERS.
FROM THE BEGINNING...
OUR REL.TION-SHIP WAS SOMETHING WE COULD ER.SE WITH OUR FIN-GERTIPS.

WITH NOTHING ELSE CONNECTING US
HAA, GOODNESS AT LEAST GIVE ME SOME KIND OF RESPONSE
It's as if I'm the bad guy here
WHEN SOMEONE ELSE SAID THAT...
SONO, YOU SAY SOMETHING, TOO.
A BARELY PERCEPTIBLE RELATIONSHIP
BUT...
I...

NO.

!
IT'S TRUE
I DON'T KNOW ANY THING ABOUT SONO-SAN
AND THAT HE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME
I REALIZED IT ONLY NOW THAT I DON'T WANT THIS

I DON'T WANT TO BREAK UP WITH HIM.
I'M EVEN MORE OPPOSED TO HIM BEING TAKEN AWAY BY YOU
BUT...
I'M JUST A HIGH-SCHOOLER.
WE HAVE A TEN-YEAR GAP.
I'M ALWAYS LIKE A KID.

I KNOW IT WHEN I'M WITH SONO-SAN.
SAYING I'LL PROTECT SONO-SAN...
RATHER...
!
BECAUSE OF ME...
IF SONO-SAN IS HURT BY SOMEONE.
AND HE SUFFERS FROM PAINFUL MEMO-RIES
OR BECOMES TROUBLED
IF THERE'S A CHANCE...
THAT MY EXISTENCE WILL BECOME A HINDRANCE TO HIM. .

THAT IS...
THE LEAST I WANT THAT TO HAPPEN.

RIO...
SAKUMA.
WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU GO AFTER HIM?
WHAT WILL I...
BUT HIS HAND

EVEN THOUGH ..
THEY'RE USUALLY ...
HIS FINGER-TIPS FELT SO COLD
SO WARM
I WON'T APOLOGIZE.
.....
I DID WANT YOU...
TO FEEL TROUBLED.
I'M A HORRIBLE GUY, HUH.

YOU KNOW, BACK THEN...
I LIKED YOU.
NO.
WHEN YOU SAID THOSE THINGS, I REALIZED SOMETHING.
I'M REALLY NO GOOD
I'VE DECIDED TO GO OUT WITH KANA.
PROBABLY THE SAME KIND OF "LIKE" YOU FELT.
BUT..
ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T REALIZE MY OWN FEELINGS BACK THEN.
IT'S THE PAST.
RIGHT?

I'M THE HORRIBLE ONE
I THOUGHT YOU WORK LATE TODAY SO WE ATE ALREADY.
I'M HOME.
EH.
I'LL HEAT IT UP FOR YOU NOW
I DON'T NEED IT.
AH.
WELCOME BACK, YOU'RE EARLY.

SORRY, I DON'T HAVE APPETITE.
RIO...
ONIICHAN THE GIFTS YOU BOUGHT EARLIER.
THANK...
JUST NOW...

I PATTED HIM NATURALLY
AH...
BUT...
IT WAS...
THIS EASY.
IF I REACH OUT THIS HAND JUST A LITTLE BIT
IT ALL MELTED AWAY LIKE SNOW
THE PAIN AND EMPTINESS THAT I KEPT BOTTLED UP INSIDE OF ME...

I'M...
SUPPOSED TO BE HAPPY.
BUT THERE'S NO ONE I CAN TELL ANY-MORE.

AH
BEEP
BEEP
IT'S AWKWARD BUT IT'S ALREADY 5 DAYS.
HE COULD AT LEAST CALL ME
HE DIDN'T REPLY MY MAIL
MAIL RECEIVED
RIO
I'M SORRY
THAT BRAT...

I THOUGHT YOU QUIT SMOKING.
Don't take mine.

AH. THE MANAGER'S LIKE A DEVIL RIGHT NOW.
I'D WANT TO AT SUCH TIMES
DON'T SAY THAT!!
FOR IT TO HAVE SUCH AN IMPACT ON YOUR WORK, LOVE IS A TROUBLE-SOME THING.
So bad
DAMN. IT WAS THE FIRST TIME HE SCOLDED ME LIKE THAT.
NO, YOU'RE NOT...
AM I WRONG?
I'M FINE WITH PEACE AND QUIET!
HMM, YOU'RE NOT DENY-ING IT.
How boring

DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I SAID EARLIER...

THAT I WASN'T GOING TO APOLO-GIZE?

YEAH...

THE THINGS I SAID ABOUT YOU AND THAT KID.

IT'S MY REAL ADVICE TO YOU AS YOUR FRIEND.

UNTIL RECENTLY YOU WERE SAYING YOU'D MARRY A NICE GIRL AND SETTLE DOWN.

TO THINK THAT YOU FELL FOR A MALE HIGH SCHOOLER.

IT MAY ALL DISAPPEAR.
YOUR CAREER, FAMILY, PRIDE...
BUT IF YOU DECIDED TO MOVE FORWARD...
DESPITE ALL THAT...
THEN I WILL SUPPORT YOU.
I'M NO GOOD.
ACTING ALL COOL...
SONO, DON'T LET IT SMOLDER LIKE THAT.

MAKING SAKUMA WORRIED ABOUT ME
COME TO THINK OF IT..
I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'S WORKING TODAY OR WHAT TIME HE GETS OFF
Such an idiot
So cold.
I NEVER GO AFTER SOMEONE
USUALLY PEOPLE CONFESSED TO ME
BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DONE THIS NOT TOO BAD
How about kara-oke?
Hey, where do you want to go?

Stay with us all night this time.
AH.
HEY!
HIGH SCHOOL KIDS SHOULDN'T BE OUT PLAYING SO LATE AT NIGHT
HOW CARE-FREE YOU MUST BE

SONO-SAN.
Who is this?
I SEE. IT'S LIKE THIS.
What's with this guy?
He's kind of cool
THE ONE WHO'S THE HINDRANCE HERE ..
YEAH. WE TOTALLY HAVE NO CONNECTION AT ALL.
AND THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE BESIDE ME.
IT'S ME, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE THOUGHT ALL ALONG, HAVEN'T YOU?

SO-
SONO-SAN...
THAT'S NOT...
EH
OKAY. TARGET SECURED.
HAH!?
WAIT, WE ASKED HIM FIRST

SORRY.
IT'S BEEN SNOWING A LOT THIS YEAR. SO COLD.
HEY. IT'S COLD GO IN QUICKLY.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOUR HANDS HAVE BEEN COLD SINCE EARLIER.
ぼっ
ぼっ

WHAT?
Go in first.
HERE, SIT UNDER THE KOTATSU.
DO YOU WANT A HOT DRINK?
HEY, WHAT'S..
BECAUSE...
SONO-SAN'S HANDS ARE SO WARM...

YOU WOULDN'T NEED ME TO WARM YOUR HANDS UP ANYMORE
YOU DON'T NEED ME ANYMORE
YOU LET GO OF ME FIRST BUT YOUR ACTIONS AND YOUR WORDS CONTRADICT EACH OTHER.
I DON'T WANT TO BE A BURDEN TO YOU.
BUT I DON'T WANT TO...

I WANT US TO BE TOGETHER.
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU.
SONO-SAN.
IN TRUTH, I DON'T WANT TO LET GO OF YOU.
I'M LONELY...
WHY?
EH?

HEY.
DO YOU LIKE ME?
!!!
NOD
NOD
NOD

I LIKE YOU!
I like you.
I like you,
Sono-san.
HE'S TOO CUTE.
I WANT TO ADORE HIM.
I CAN DO ANYTHING FOR HIM
DAMN IT.
WHAT-EVER.
EVERYTHING'S FINE.

THINGS LIKE PRIDE OR COMMON SENSE THAT I'VE BUILT UP FOR THE PAST 22 YEARS, ALL OF IT...
OR RATHER, NONE OF IT SEEMS TO MATTER ANYMORE.
LOVE IS AN AMAZING THING
TO BE CONTINUED

NN.
指先から
Kiss from a finger-tip
恋をして
最終話
HAA.
NN.
HAA.
MY MIND'S FUZZY...
I FORGOT THAT KISSES FELT SO GOOD...
ACK!
NN

SONO-
SANMM?
EH
.....
AH
OPPS.
I'VE TO...
I DIDN'T MEAN TO STOP.

WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
TELL HIM PROPERLY.
I WORE GIRL'S CLOTHES AND LIKED BOYS.
BUT THERE CAME A TIME WHEN I REALIZED THAT WASN'T NORMAL.
I'M SORRY, YUME.
EVERYTHING TURNED BLACK IN FRONT OF ME. I WAS TERRIFIED.
TO ESCAPE FROM THE DARKNESS...
IF ONLY I HADN'T GIVEN YOU A NAME THAT SOUNDS SO FEMININE.
I CHOSE TO FORGET IT ALL.

I HATED MY FEMININE NAME...
AND PUT ON A CHARADE OF LIKING GIRLS.
I "ACTED NORMAL" FOR 22 YEARS.
THEN I MET YOU, AND NO MATTER HOW RIGHT IT FELT BEING WITH YOU...
IT WAS SOMETHING I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT.
?
CAN YOU CARRY THIS BURDEN?

I ONLY CAME OUT OF THE CLOSET AT THIS AGE.
I MIGHT NOT GET ALONG WITH YOU IN FUTURE.
IT MIGHT GET REALLY TROUBLE-SOME.
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO PROTECT ME.
BUT NOW YOU KNOW MY WEAKNESSES AND MY FLAWS...
CAN YOU REALLY SHOULDER ALL OF THEM?

IT FEELS LIKE...
I'VE JUST HEARD AN AMAZING CONFESSION.
YOU'RE SUCH A KID.
WHAT I SAID EARLIER, IT WAS ALL A LIE.

EVEN IF YOU CAN'T PROTECT ME, IT'D BE FINE.
ACTUALLY, WHAT I SAID THAT TIME...
IT'S THE DUTY OF ADULTS LIKE ME TO PROTECT KIDS LIKE YOU.
THE ONE WHO'S THE HINDRANCE HERE IS ME.
HAD A TINY RING OF TRUTH TO IT.
JUST LIKE THAT.

I'LL PROBABLY BE FEELING LIKE THAT MORE...
FROM NOW ON
SONO-SAN.
I LIKE YOU.
AH.
NN.
HAA.
AH!
I LIKE YOU.
HAA.
SONO-SAN.
AH! RIO..
NN!
AL-READY...

I STILL CAN'T SAY THOSE WORDS.
I LOVE YOU.
UM.
OK.
THEN I'LL BE HEADING HOME.

YOU KNOW...
I HOPE I CAN...
INTRODUCE YOU TO MY FAMILY SOMETIME
.....
I KNOW IT'S TOO EARLY TO SAY IF WE'D BE ABLE TO WEATHER EVERY-THING, BUT...
I'M NOT SAYING RIGHT NOW, BUT I'M SERIOUS.
NO, YOU...
That's too

SONO-SAN, YOU'RE MY LOVER THAT I'M VERY PROUD OF.
GRIN
I GUESS THAT'S TRUE.
IT'S NO GOOD.
THIS IS...
MORE THAN I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE
EH.

I'VE GROWN TALLER.
HEY.
I THOUGHT SO.
I HAD THOUGHT...
I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO LOOK AT YOU AT THE SAME EYE LEVEL.
SONO-SAN

HURRY AND GO.
Mama, I wanna eat cake!!
EVEN IF YOU CALLED THEM, STAYING OUT ALL NIGHT, YOUR PARENTS MUST BE WORRIED.
I WILL KEEP LOOKING FORWARD.
AND BECOME A PROPER ADULT.
UNTIL THEN...

LATER

I'LL CONTACT YOU LATER.
.....
HURRY UP AND GO!!
THWACK
OUCH!
.....
OK!
.....
What? Really?
HI
SONO JUST SAID HE'S TREATING EVERYONE TO DINNER TONIGHT.
HEY!
Lucky!
For real? Thanks senpai!
Me, too!
BUZZ
BUZZ
GEEZ.

MAIL RECEIVED
RIO
TO: SONO-SAN
ONCE I HAVE GRADUATED AND BECOME AN ADULT, MAY WE LIVE TOGETHER?
HEY, THE MEETING'S STARTING NOW.
I KNEW IT.
FROM A KID THAT DOESN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF BEING SCARED..
HE'LL KEEP GROWING LIKE THIS EVERY DAY.
STAYING BESIDE HIM AND-WATCHING HIM GROWING UP...
MY HANDS ARE BIG SO OF COURSE I'LL KEEP GROWING. BUT YOU.
HAVE YOU GROWN TALLER AGAIN?
AND A LITTLE PROUD
MAKES ME FEARFUL AND HAPPY...
END

Four Years
After

I SERIOUSLY THINK THAT A KID GROWS UP FAST AND I'M IN MY THIRTIES ALREADY

SONO-SAN, YOU LIKE YOUR COFFEE HOT, RIGHT?
YEAH.
WILL IT TAKE LONG?
LOOKS LIKE IT.
ANOTHER FEW HOURS AT LEAST.

FINALLY WE GET TO SPEND OUR DAY OFFS TOGETHER. I'M LONELY LIKE THIS.
NN.
HEY...
NOT UNTIL I FINISH THIS.
YOU WOULDN'T WANT ME TO WASTE MY HOLIDAYS IF I CAN'T GET THIS OUT TOMORROW.
HEY!

ROGER.
RIO.
BUT I CAN LOOK FORWARD AFTER YOU'RE DONE WITH WORK.
I'll stay out of your way.
SINCE THEN...

FOUR YEARS HAVE PASSED.
THE KID WHO WAS HAVING THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME BECAME AN ADULT.
WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT, HE HAS SURPASSED ME.
I SAVED A MILLION YEN AND MY PARENTS TOLD ME TO DO WHAT I WANTED.
RIO WAS THE ONE WHO SUGGESTED THAT WE LIVE TOGETHER.
I'M STILL A STUDENT SO I'M NOT CONSIDER INDEPENDENT YET, BUT I WANT TO BE WITH SONO-SAN AS MUCH AND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE REFUSED.
EVEN SO....
ISN'T THAT TOO BIG OF A CHANGE FROM TEENS TO YOUNG ADULT?
AND I...
WHAT ABOUT ME?
I'M OVER 30.

I NEED TO GET THE RIGHT TIME TO BREAK UP.
HAA.
HAA
SONO-SAN.
AH.
TOO ROUGH.
HAA.
AH!
NN.
HAA.

HAA.
.....
SONO-SAN...
...
I CAN'T...
TAKING A SHOWER?
YEAH.
AFTER YOU.
I'LL GO FIRST.

PREVIOUSLY, HE WAS MORE FORCEFUL AND WOULD DO IT AGAIN.
HE'S PROBABLY THE ONE
WHO'S THINKING ABOUT BREAKING UP.
BUT IT'S STILL CHANGING.
HE'D NEVER SETTLED FOR IT LIKE THIS IN THE PAST.
DO YOU WANT IT? IF YOU REALLY DON'T WANT IT, I'LL STOP.
AH
NNN
NW
AH

SONO-SAN. DID YOU FALL ASLEEP?
YES?
THE REPORT?
IT'S ALREADY FINISHED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOUR TREAT NEXT TIME.
MY STOMACH ...
I FEEL NAUSEOUS.

HAVING THESE DOUBTS ARE SO LAME.
TOO LAME
SAKU-MA.
IT SURE IS LAME.
I THOUGHT THIS TIME WOULD COME EVENTUALLY.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE PREPARED FOR IT, I CAN'T HELP BUT WORRY.
WE'RE NOT BREAKING UP.
WHEN YOU BREAK UP, FEEL FREE TO COME FLYING TO MY ARMS.

ABOUT BREAKING UP...
I DON'T WANT TO.
BUT.
HMM
.....
I FEEL LIKE I'M TAKING AWAY RIO'S POSSIBILITIES FOR THE FUTURE.
AREN'T YOU THINKING ABOUT WHEN TO DO IT?
SHAD-DUP.
I KNOW
SORRY.
I'M NOT GONNA LISTEN TO YOU TALK ABOUT HIM.
SONO, YOU...
AH, OH NO!
.....

I'VE GOT MEETINGS. GOTTA GO.
SONOI . SHINONOME
I WONDER.
HOW DOES THE SOCIETY SEE THIS.
JUST LIKE THIS, DIFFERENT FROM US, WHO ARE GUILTY-STRICKEN.
I WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER WITH YOU.
MY FRIENDS ASKED ME AND I TOLD THEM YOU WERE MY LOVER.
IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL MY PARENTS, TOO.

THIS IS SHINONOME'S MOTHER. IT'S ABOUT RIO
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.
RIO IS ALWAYS LOOKING FORWARD.
BUT I'M ALWAYS STANDING AT THE SAME PLACE.
MY LEGS...
THEY'RE SHAKING.
I'M TRYING WITH ALL MY MIGHT JUST BY STANDING STILL.

FOR ME NOT TO BECOME THE SHACKLES ON YOUR FEET, IT'S BETTER...
NN.
SONO-SAN
EH
YOU'RE CRYING AGAIN?
YOU REALLY ARE A KID.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I AM JUST A CHILD.

I WANT TO HURRY AND BECOME YOUR EQUAL.
BUT I ONLY ENDED UP RUSHING THINGS.
I DIDN'T EVEN REALIZE YOU WEREN'T FEELING WELL.
I'M SO ASHAMED.
NO, THAT'S BECAUSE A PERSON MY AGE HAS A HARD TIME KEEPING UP WITH YOU.
BUT...
MY FEELINGS ARE AS YOUNG AS EVER THOUGH...
SAKUMA-SAN WAS ...

I'M BEGGING YOU
SAKUMA?
HE CALLED
ASKING ME ABOUT YOU.
PLEASE DON'T THROW ME AWAY.
PLEASE DON'T GO.
SO MANY CALLS...
SONO-SAN
DON'T GO TO HIM.

...
I DON'T WANT IT.
NO WAY.
WHY IS IT LIKE THIS ?
RIO, YOU'RE HEAVY.
SORRY.
?
I THOUGHT IT'S GOOD TO PUT A LITTLE BIT OF DISTANCE BETWEEN US.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE ANNOYED IF I'M TOO PERSISTENT
AH.
I THOUGHT I WAS BEING CAREFUL...
WHAT?
I WON'T BREAK UP WITH YOU.
GEEZ
RIO.

ACTUALLY, I...
REALLY FEEL LIKE DOING IT RIGHT NOW.
I love you.
But I can't do it because of the fever.
...
THE THING—
HEY, IDIOT, YOU'RE GOING TO CATCH MY COLD.
I REALLY CAN'T BE MIS-TAKEN ABOUT...
NN.
NN.

HAA
AH!
RIO...
IT'S OKAY TO STAY LIKE THAT.
ISN'T ABOUT WHEN TO BREAK UP.
YOU HEAR ME?
ONCE YOU'VE GRADUATED FROM COLLEGE, LET'S GO TRAVELING.
AND ONCE WE CAME BACK...
LET'S GO BACK TO MY PARENTS' PLACE
I WANT THEM TO KNOW ABOUT YOU

IT'S THE NEED TO TELL THOSE THAT I WANT TO, THAT YOU'RE MY LOVER
END

●初出一覧●

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